

July 22, 2014

A regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m., July 22, 2014

Members present: Mayor Robert T Wandrei; Councilman Robert D. Carson; Councilman Stacey L. Hailey; Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr.; Councilman W. D. Tharp; and Vice Mayor James A. Vest

Members absent: Councilman Steve C. Rush

Staff present: Town Manager Charles P. Kolakowski; Town Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher

Mayor Wandrei opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Wandrei declared that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on July 8, 2014, were approved as distributed.

Town Manager Kolakowski reported on the following:

- The Town has received all of the approvals except one for the downtown improvement grant program – that approval has to come from the Army Corp of Engineers because one of the drains empties into a creek, which empties into the Atlantic Ocean at some point. Once the approval is given by the Army Corp that project will be put out for bid and hopefully will be commencing this fall.
- There will be a presentation later in the meeting regarding passenger rail service station in the area.

Vice Mayor Vest thanked the Police Department for the great job they did with “Cop Camp.”

Councilman Hailey also thanked the Police Department for having “Cop Camp” as his stepdaughter attended the camp and enjoyed the programs.

Councilman Carson, Chairman of the Property Committee, stated the committee met earlier in the evening in closed session.

Councilman Tharp, Chairman of the Solid Waste Committee, said the committee met earlier in the evening and discussed options about how to deal with solid waste in the future.

Town Manager Kolakowski reported that the Sheriff of the County Amherst, the County of Appomattox, the County of Bedford, the County of Campbell, the County of Nelson, the City of Lynchburg, the County of Pittsylvania, the Town of Altavista, the Town of Amherst, the Town of Bedford, the Town of Brookneal, the Town of Chatham, and the Town of Hurt through a mutual aid agreement provide police officers and sheriffs and their deputies to make arrest across jurisdictional lines, and increase their ability to maintain peace and good order throughout the area. The Town Manager said this

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agreement would also allow each party to provide police support to the jurisdictions which are parties to this Agreement. This support may include uniformed officers, forensic support, plainclothes officers, and special operations personnel and related equipment. Nothing in the Agreement compels any of the parties to respond when its law enforcement officers are needed for duties within the boundaries of its own jurisdiction. Mr. Kolakowski said that Council was requested to approve for the Town Manager to sign and the Town of Bedford to enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement with the localities named.

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Councilman Hailey, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Carson	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Councilman Rush	absent
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Tharp	aye
Vice Mayor Vest	aye
Mayor Wandrei	aye

The resolution follows as adopted:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, for a number of years the cities, counties and towns in Central Virginia and their law enforcement agencies have participated in mutual aid agreements; and,

WHEREAS, these mutual aid agreements have (a) helped promote regional corporation among law enforcement agencies (b) helped participating jurisdictions provide necessary law enforcement services during emergencies and (c) helped enhance the overall quality of law enforcement services in Central Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Bedford has written mutual aid agreements with Bedford County Sheriff's Department, Amherst County Sheriff's Department, Town of Amherst Police Department, Campbell County Sheriff's Department, Town of Altavista Police Department, Town of Brookneal Police Department, City of Lynchburg Police Department, City of Lynchburg Sheriff's Department, and the Appomattox County Sheriff's Department; and,

WHEREAS, these mutual aid agreements must be amended from time to time to reflect amendments to the Virginia Code, to add new parties, etc.; and,

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WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Departments for Nelson County and Pittsylvania County have requested that they be allowed to participate in the mutual aid agreement along with the cities, counties, and towns and other law enforcement agencies in Central Virginia who are currently parties to the said mutual aid agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Bedford Council hereby authorizes the Town to enter into a written mutual aid agreement with the Amherst County Sheriff's Department, the Appomattox County Sheriff's Department, the Bedford County Sheriff's Department, the Campbell County Sheriff's Department, the Lynchburg Sheriff's Department, the Nelson County Sheriff's Department, the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Department, the Town of Altavista, the Town of Amherst, the Town of Brookneal, the City of Lynchburg and such other cities, counties, and towns and law enforcement agencies in the Central Virginia area as may be appropriate for the joint use of law enforcement forces, both regular and auxiliary, equipment and materials, in order to maintain the peace and good order, and the Town Manager is authorized to execute such an agreement on behalf of the Town of Bedford.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town of Bedford hereby approves the Town's participation in future law enforcement mutual aid agreements with the cities, counties, and towns in Central Virginia and their law enforcement agencies and at such times as those mutual aid agreements must be updated and amended, the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to sign such future law enforcement mutual aid agreements on behalf of the Town.

Mr. Steve Stevick, 1674 Iroquois Trail, Bedford, gave a power point presentation regarding the need for an Amtrak stop in Bedford. Mr. Stevick's presentation gave information about: the group he was speaking for; what has been done so far; the requirement for a station; site options identified; who would pay for what; what is to be done; and a feasibility study.

Mr. Stevick said those in favor of a stop in Bedford would like a statement from Bedford County and the Town of Bedford in support of this project. He said that the County is waiting for the Town to take a position.

Vice Mayor Vest stated he appreciates the work that has been done and he is supportive of an Amtrak stop in Bedford.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the proposed resolution.

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RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING A RAIL PASSENGER STATION STOP IN THE TOWN OF BEDFORD

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has announced that on or before the year 2017 rail passenger service will be extended to Roanoke, passing through but not stopping in the Town of Bedford; and

WHEREAS, citizens and citizen organizations of the Town of Bedford and counties of Bedford and Franklin have expressed strong support for a rail passenger station stop in the Town of Bedford; and

WHEREAS, the need for a passenger rail station in the Town of Bedford is included in the 2012 Comprehensive Plan of the Town's (then a city); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bedford views the placement of a Bedford passenger rail station stop as a vital element in meeting the Town's current needs and plans for growth and economic development, while serving the regional passenger rail transportation needs and plans of Bedford and Franklin Counties.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council of the Town of Bedford supports the creation of a regional passenger rail station stop in the Town of Bedford, and authorizes staff to enter into negotiations with DRPT and other state and federal government officials, Bedford County and Franklin County and citizen organizations thereof to realize a Town of Bedford rail passenger station stop.

Councilman Vest moved that Council adopt the proposed resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hailey.

Mayor Wandrei asked who would provide maintenance and be responsible for the facilities once they are constructed.

Mr. Stevick said the type of facility has not been determined.

The Mayor said his concern was that Council was being asked to adopt a resolution about this and there are a lot of unknowns. Mayor Wandrei said the Council cannot commit, particularly as there are three different options and Council does not know what the Town's commitment would be, what it would involve, or what the financial commitment would be.

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Mr. Stevick said the resolution was developed in the way that it was – it leaves those open to be clarified and any commitment on the part of the Town would be made by the Council.

Mayor Wandrei said that it is understood that Council is not committing the Town to any specific option or commit any financial resources to further this project.

Mr. Stevick said that the Mayor's statement was correct. Mr. Stevick asked only for the participation of the staff.

Mayor Wandrei said he was skeptical – that he has ridden the Northeast Regional train and one of the problems with that train route is the frequency of stops.

Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Hailey	aye
Councilman Rush	absent
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Tharp	aye
Vice Mayor Vest	aye
Councilman Carson	aye
Mayor Wandrei	aye

Mayor Wandrei adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.